Allocation of power to Gujarat

1439. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat faces heavy peaking power shortage;

(b) if so, why the unallocated quote of Central generating stations has been diverted to other States; and

(c) by when will the same be restored?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the year 2006-07 (April, 06 to Feb., 07) the peaking shortage in the State of Gujarat varied between 7.4% to 30.6%.

(b) the allocation of power from unallocated quota of Central Generating Stations (CGSs) in Western Region (WR) was revised in February, 2006 and power was allocated to more deficit States/Union Territories in the Region by reducing the allocation of relatively comfortable States *i.e.* Gujarat &Goa.

(c) Keeping in view the request of Gujarat for allocation of additional power and relative power supply position of WR constituents, the allocation to Gujarat out of unallocated quota of Central Sector Generating Stations (CGSs) in Western Region (WR) was enhanced by 55 MW in January, 2007. The 15% unallocated power in CGSs kept at the disposal of the Government is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the relative power supply position of constituents and nature of their requirement.

Power supply agreement with neighbouring countries

1440. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has stepped up efforts to implement its bilateral cooperation deals with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in order to overcome power shortages across the country;

(b) if so, whether no substantial progress has, so far been achieved regarding cooperation with Bangladesh and Pakistan;

(c)if so, whether India has decided to pursue its proposal for gas export from Bangladesh; and

(d)if so, whether any agreement has been reached and signed with Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bhutan for supply of power to India?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) India has agreement of co-operation with Bhutan and Nepal for exchange of power. The cooperation between India and Bhutan in the field of hydropower has been helpful in meeting the gap in energy demand of the country. The bulk of the power generated from the hydroelectric projects at Tala (1020 MW), Chukka (336MW) and Kurichhu (60 MW) in Bhutan, which have been implemented with technical and financial assistance of India, is exported to India, The inter-border exchange of power between India and Nepal has also been taking place for mutual benefit of the two countries under a bilateral arrangement.

There is no agreement for exchange of power with any other country except Bhutan and Nepal. However, discussions have been held with the South Asian countries in the fora of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) covering many areas of cooperation, including power.

As regard the gas imports, the Government of India has consistently taken up the issue of export of gas by Bangladesh to India. However, it is for Bangladesh to decide whether it is in a position to do so.

Rural electrification in Andhra Pradesh

1441. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government's rural electrification programme aims to electrify all villages by the year 2010;

(b)if so, the number of villages in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa which have been electrified so far;

(c)whether there is any sanctioned scheme awaiting release of funds by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for electrifying the districts of Andhra Pradesh; and